

Claims

What is claimed is:

- 5 1. A method for automatic recording, the method comprising the steps of:
- receiving a request, from a scheduler, to schedule a recording of a program for a recipient; and
- issuing a command to record the program for the
- 10 recipient, wherein the scheduler and the recipient are different individuals.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of determining if the scheduler is authorized to schedule a recording for the recipient, and wherein the step of issuing a command to record the program for the recipient further comprises the step of issuing a command to record the program for the recipient when the scheduler is authorized to schedule a recording for the recipient.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein the step of determining if a scheduler is authorized to schedule a recording for the recipient further comprises the step of determining if the scheduler matches an entry in a buddy list.
- 25 4. The method of claim 3, wherein the step of determining if the scheduler matches an entry in a buddy list further comprises the step of determining if a scheduler identification matches one of a plurality of identifications in the buddy list.
- 30 5. The method of claim 3, wherein the step of determining if the scheduler matches an entry in a buddy list further comprises the step of determining if a scheduler personalized

television recorder identification matches one of a plurality of identifications in the buddy list.

6. The method of claim 3, wherein the method further comprises the steps of:

registering the recipient;

registering the scheduler; and

creating a buddy list for the recipient, the buddy list comprising at least one entry, each entry determining a person allowed to authorize recordings on a personalized television recorder owned by the recipient.

7. The method of claim 2, wherein the steps of receiving, determining, and issuing are performed by a service provider.

8. The method of claim 7, further comprising the step of accepting a monetary amount, and wherein the step of issuing further comprises the step of issuing a command to record the program for the recipient when the scheduler is authorized to schedule a recording for the recipient and when the monetary amount meets a predetermined amount.

9. The method of claim 2, wherein the steps of receiving, determining, and issuing are performed by a personalized television recorder.

10. The method of claim 2, wherein:
the step of determining if a scheduler is authorized to schedule a recording for the recipient further comprises the step of determining if the recipient matches an entry in a buddy list, wherein each entry in the buddy list has paid to be on the list; and

the step of issuing a command to record the program for the recipient when the scheduler is authorized to schedule a recording for the recipient further comprises the step of issuing a command, by a service provider, to a scheduler personalized television recorder to allow a recipient personalized television recorder to retrieve a recorded program from the scheduler personalized television recorder when the recipient matches an entry in the buddy list.

11. The method of claim 10, further comprising the step of the recipient personalized television recorder retrieving the recorded program from the scheduler personalized television recorder.

12. The method of claim 10, further comprising the step of the scheduler personalized television recorder transmitting the recorded program to the recipient personalized television recorder.

13. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of informing one or more of the scheduler and the recipient that the command has been issued.

14. The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of informing one or more of the scheduler and the recipient when the scheduler is not authorized to schedule a recording for the recipient.

15. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
receiving the issued command;
determining if a conflict exists between the command and a previously entered recording request; and
rejecting the command when a conflict exists.

16. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
receiving the issued command;
determining if a conflict exists between the command
5 and a program being watched; and
rejecting the command when a conflict exists.

17. A system comprising:
a memory that stores computer-readable code; and
10 a processor operatively coupled to the memory, the
processor configured to implement the computer-readable code, the
computer-readable code configured to:
receive a request, from a scheduler, to schedule a
recording of a program for a recipient; and
issue a command to record the program for the
recipient, wherein the scheduler and the recipient are different
individuals.

18. An article of manufacture comprising:
a computer-readable medium having computer-readable
code means embodied thereon, said computer-readable program code
means comprising:
a step to receive a request, from a scheduler, to
schedule a recording of a program for a recipient; and
25 issue a command to record the program for the
recipient, wherein the scheduler and the recipient are different
individuals.

19. A system for person-to-person scheduling and
30 notification of automatic program recording for personalized
television, the system comprising:
means for receiving a request, from a scheduler, to
schedule a recording of a program for a recipient; and

means for issuing a command to record the program for the recipient, wherein the scheduler is a first person and the recipient is a second person.

5 20. A method performed on a recorder capable of recording programs, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving an instruction from a scheduler to schedule a recording of a program for a recipient, wherein the scheduler and the recipient are different individuals; and

10 recording the program.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein:

the step of receiving an instruction from a scheduler to schedule a recording of a program for a recipient further comprises the steps of:

the scheduler requesting the recording of the program; and

determining if the scheduler is authorized to schedule the recording for a recipient; and

the step of recording the program further comprises the step of recording the program when the scheduler is authorized to schedule the recording for the recipient.

25 22. A system comprising:

a memory that stores computer-readable code; and

a processor operatively coupled to the memory, the processor configured to implement the computer-readable code, the computer-readable code configured to:

30 receive an instruction from a scheduler to schedule a recording of a program for a recipient, wherein the scheduler and the recipient are different individuals; and

record the program.

23. A method comprising the steps of:

a scheduler selecting a program for a recipient,
wherein the scheduler and the recipient are different
5 individuals;

forming an instruction suitable to allow recording of
the program; and

transmitting the instruction.

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